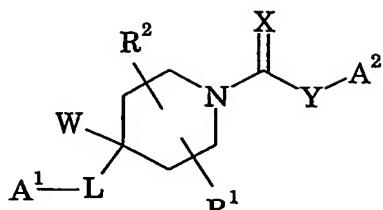


CLAIMS

1. A compound of formula (I):

5



(I)

wherein:

A¹ is phenyl, a six-membered aromatic heterocycle containing one, two or
10 three nitrogen atoms, or a five-membered aromatic heterocycle containing up to four heteroatoms chosen from O, N and S, at most one heteroatom being O or S;

A¹ is unsubstituted or substituted by one, two or three substituents independently chosen from halogen, C₁-alkyl, C₂-alkenyl, C₂-alkynyl, haloC₁-alkyl, C₁-alkoxy, haloC₁-alkoxy, hydroxy, cyano, nitro and amino;

A² is phenyl, a six-membered aromatic heterocycle containing one, two or three nitrogen atoms, or a five-membered aromatic heterocycle containing up to four heteroatoms chosen from O, N and S, at most one heteroatom being O or S;

A² is unsubstituted or substituted by one, two or three groups independently chosen from halogen, cyano, nitro, amino, C₁-alkylamino, di(C₁-alkyl)amino, C₁-alkyl C₂-alkenyl, C₂-alkynyl, haloC₁-alkyl, hydroxy, C₁-alkoxy, haloC₁-alkyl, thiol, SF₆, phenylC₁-alkyl and phenyl;

L is a bond or C₁-alkylene;

R¹ and R² independently chosen from hydrogen and C₁-alkyl; or R¹ and R² may, together, form a methylene or ethylene bridge;

25 W is halogen, C₁-alkyl, haloC₁-alkyl, C₁-alkoxy or haloC₁-alkoxy;

X is O, S or NR³ where R³ is hydrogen, hydroxy, C₁-alkoxy, C₁-alkyl, cyano, C₃-cycloalkyl, a six-membered saturated heterocycle containing one or two heteroatoms independently chosen from O, N and S, and R³ is, if possible, optionally substituted by C₁-alkyl, C₁-alkoxy, haloC₁-alkyl, haloC₁-alkoxy,

halogen, amino, nitro, hydroxy, phenyl, a six-membered aromatic heterocycle containing up to three nitrogen atoms or a five-membered aromatic heterocycle containing up to four heteroatoms chosen from O, N and S, at most one heteroatom being O or S;

5 or X, together with the atom to which it is attached, and Y, form an unsaturated five-membered ring together with A²;

Y is a bond, C₁₋₄alkylene, NH or NH(CH₂)₁₋₃;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

10 2. A compound selected from:

4-fluoro-4-(3-methylpyridin-2-yl)-N-[4-trifluoromethylphenyl]piperidine-1-carboxamide;

4-fluoro-4(pyridin-2-yl)N-[4-trifluoromethylphenyl]piperidine-1-carboxamide;

4-fluoro-4(pyridine-2-yl)N-[4-trifluoromethylbenzyl]piperidine-1-carboxamide;

15 2-{4-fluoro-1-[4-trifluoromethylbenzoyl]piperidin-4-yl}pyridine;

2-(4-fluoro-1-[(4-trifluoromethylphenyl)acetyl]piperidin-4-yl)pyridine;

2-(4-fluoro-1-{3-[4-trifluoromethylphenyl]propanoyl}piperidin-4-yl)pyridine

4-fluoro-4-(1-methyl-1*H*-imidazol-2-yl)-N-[4-trifluoromethylphenyl]piperidine-1-carboxamide;

20 4-methoxy-4-pyridin-2-yl-N-[4-trifluoromethylphenyl]piperidine-1-carboxamide;

4-methoxy-4-pyridin-2-yl-N-[4-trifluoromethylbenzyl]piperidine-1-carboxamide;

4-fluoro-N(4-isopropylphenyl)-4-(3-methylpyridin-2-yl)piperidine-1-carboxamide;

4-fluoro-4-(3-methylpyridin-2-yl)-N-{4-[1,2,2,2-tetrafluoro-1-trifluoromethylethyl]phenyl}piperidine-1-carboxamide;

25 N-(4-Tertbutylphenyl)-4-fluoro-4-(3-methylpyridin-2-yl)piperidine-1-carboxamide;

4-fluoro-4-(3-methylpyridin-2-yl)-N-[4-(pentafluoro-λ⁶-sulfanyl)phenyl]piperidine-1-carboxamide;

N-(4-Butylphenyl)-4-fluoro-4-(3-methylpyridin-2-yl)piperidine-1-carboxamide;

30 N-(4-Benzylphenyl)-4-fluoro-4-(3-methylpyridin-2-yl)piperidine-1-carboxamide;

*N*biphenyl-4-yl-4-fluoro-4-(3-methylpyridin-2-yl)piperidine-1-carboxamide;
4-fluoro-4-(3-methylpyridin-2-yl)-*N*[5-trifluoromethylpyridin-2-yl]piperidine-1-
carboxamide;
4-(3-chloropyridin-2-yl)-4-fluoro-*N*[4-trifluoromethylphenyl]piperidine-1-
5 carboxamide
4-fluoro-4-(3-fluoropyridin-2-yl)-*N*[4-trifluoromethylphenyl]piperidine-1-
carboxamide;
4-fluoro-4-(3-methoxypyridin-2-yl)-*N*[4-trifluoromethylphenyl]piperidine-1-
carboxamide;
10 4-fluoro-4-(3-methylpyridin-2-yl)-*N*[4-trifluoromethylphenyl]piperidine-1-
carbothioamide;
N-cyano-4-fluoro-4-(3-methylpyridin-2-yl)-*N*[4-trifluoromethylphenyl]piperidine-
15 1-carboximidamide;
4-fluoro-4-(3-methylpyridin-2-yl)-*N*-(1-phenylpiperidin-4-yl)-*N*[4-
trifluoromethylphenyl]piperidine-1-carboximidamide;
(+/-)-(syn)-4-fluoro-2-methyl-4-(3-methylpyridin-2-yl)-*N*-[4-
15 trifluoromethylphenyl]piperidine-1-carboxamide;
4-(fluoromethyl)-4-pyridin-2-yl-*N*[4-trifluoromethylphenyl]piperidine-1-
20 carboxamide;
syn and *anti*-3-fluoro-3-pyridin-2-yl-*N*[4-trifluoromethylphenyl]-8-
azabicyclo[3.2.1]octane-8-carboxamide & 3-fluoro-3-pyridin-2-yl-*N*[4-
trifluoromethylphenyl]-8-azabicyclo[3.2.1]octane-8-carboxamide;
4-fluoro-4-pyrimidin-2-yl-*N*[4-trifluoromethylphenyl]piperidine-1-carboxamide;
25 4-fluoro-4-(3-phenylpropyl)-*N*[4-trifluoromethylphenyl]piperidine-1-carboxamide;
2-[4-fluoro-4-(3-methylpyridin-2-yl)piperidin-1-yl]-6-trifluoromethyl-1*H*-
benzimidazole;
2-(4-fluoro-4-pyridin-2-ylpiperidin-1-yl)-6-(trifluoromethyl)-1*H*-benzimidazole;
4-fluoro-*N*[4-trifluoromethylphenyl]-4-[3-trifluoromethylpyridin-2-yl]piperidine-
30 1-carboxamide;
4-fluoro-*N*-(4-methylphenyl)-4-(3-methylpyridin-2-yl)piperidine-1-carboxamide;
N-(4-ethylphenyl)-4-fluoro-4-(3-methylpyridin-2-yl)piperidine-1-carboxamide;
N-(4-chlorophenyl)-4-fluoro-4-(3-methylpyridin-2-yl)piperidine-1-carboxamide;

4-fluoro-4-(3-methylpyridin-2-yl)-N-[4-trifluoromethoxyphenyl]piperidine-1-carboxamide;
N-(4-cyanophenyl)-4-fluoro-4-(3-methylpyridin-2-yl)piperidine-1-carboxamide;
N-[4-dimethylaminophenyl]-4-fluoro-4-(3-methylpyridin-2-yl)piperidine-1-carboxamide;
and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

3. A pharmaceutical composition comprising one or more compounds of claim 1 or 2, or pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof in association with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or excipient.

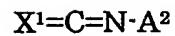
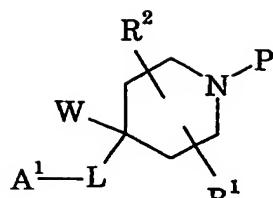
4. A compound of claim 1 or 2, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, for use in treatment of the human or animal body.

15 5. The use of a compound of claim 1 or 2, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof for use in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment or prevention of physiological disorders that may be ameliorated by modulating VR1 activity.

20 6. The use of a compound of claim 1 or 2, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof for use in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment or prevention of a disease or condition in which pain and/or inflammation predominates.

25 7. The process for the preparation of a compound of claim 1, which comprises:

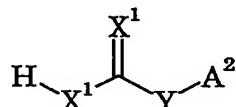
(A) for compounds wherein Y is NH or NH(CH₂)₁₋₃, reacting a compound of formula (II) with a compound of formula (III):



(III)

wherein X^1 is O or S, P is H or a C_1 -alkoxycarbonyl group such as tert-butoxycarbonyl and A^1 , A^2 , L, R^1 , R^2 and W are as defined in claim 1;

(B) for compounds wherein Y is a bond or C_{1-4} alkylene, reacting a compound of formula (II) with a compound of formula (IV):

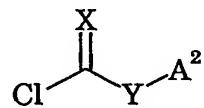


(IV)

wherein both X^1 's are O or S, Y is a bond or C_{1-4} alkylene and A^2 is as defined in claim 1; or

(C) for compounds wherein X, together with the atom to which it is attached, and Y, form an unsaturated five membered ring together with A^2 , reacting a compound of formula (II) with a compound of formula (V):

15



(V)

wherein X, together with the atom to which it is attached and Y, form an unsaturated five membered ring together with A^2 .

20

8. A method for the treatment or prevention of physiological disorders that may be ameliorated by modulating VR1 activity, which method comprises

administration to a patient in need thereof of an effective amount of a compound of claim 1 or a composition comprising a compound of claim 1.

9. A method for the treatment or prevention of a disease or condition in which pain and/or inflammation predominates, which method comprises administration to a patient in need thereof of an effective amount of a compound of claim 1, or a composition comprising a compound of claim 1.